

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION

1115 Washington Street SE * P.O. Box 45710 * Olympia, WA 98504-5710

December 30, 2009

Dear Early Family Support Providers:

I am writing to provide you with information about recent budget reductions to Early Family Support Services (EFSS). DSHS Secretary Susan N. Dreyfus and Assistant Secretary Denise Revels Robinson sent letters out discussing the difficult and serious reductions outlined by the Governor. If you have not received these messages, you can find them at the links provided at the end of this letter.

The Governor released her proposed budget on December 9, 2009, and this budget reduces funding for EFSS by 25 percent. To implement this change Children's Administration needs to meet with you to identify how we can continue serving families safely while recognizing this reduction.

To support the work that needs to be done, we have set up:

- A conference call to answer general questions and outline the next steps. The call is scheduled for:
 - January 11, 2010 from 9:00 10:30 a.m.
 - o To participate, please call 360-407-3780 and use the pin number 511083# to join
- An in-person meeting to develop concrete recommendations for CA to achieve necessary cost savings for EFSS and Early Intervention Program (EIP) is scheduled for:
 - o January 14, 2010 starting at 9:00 a.m.
 - At the CA Kent office (directions attached)

I want to thank you for your partnership and commitment to provide quality services to families. Children's Administration values the services you provide to improve the outcomes for the children and families we serve.

If you have questions after the conference call, or are unable to meet at either time, please contact April Potts at april.potts@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 902-0213. You can also visit the DSHS website at http://www.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/SupplementalBudget.html and view the Secretary's message or the budget itself. You can also view Assistant Secretary Denise Revels Robinson's message by clicking on this link http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/LtrCommunityPartners121409.pdf.

Thank you for all that you do for children and families.

Sincerely,

Tammy Cordova Interim Director

Program & Practice Improvement Division